

CLAIMS

1. A method (30) for controlling a television signal receiver (20) having an emergency alert function with an associated setup process (31), said setup process (31) comprising:

receiving a user input representing a geographical area (43); and

providing a predetermined output responsive to said user input if a distance between a reference point and a predetermined point associated with said geographical area exceeds a predetermined distance (44, 45, 46).

2. The method (30) of claim 1, wherein said geographical area is represented by a FIPS location code.

3. The method (30) of claim 1, wherein said reference point is a point associated with another geographical area.

4. The method (30) of claim 3, wherein said reference point is a center point of said other geographical area.

5. The method (30) of claim 1, wherein said reference point corresponds to a location of a transmitter which transmits emergency alert signals.

6. The method (30) of claim 5, wherein said predetermined distance corresponds to a transmission range of said transmitter.

7. The method (30) of claim 1, wherein said predetermined point associated with said geographical area is a center point of said geographical area.

8. A television signal receiver (20) having an emergency alert function, comprising:

a memory (27) operative to store data associated with said emergency alert function; and

a processor (27) operative to receive a user input representing a geographical area, and to enable a predetermined output responsive to said user input using said data in said memory (27) if a distance between a reference point and a point associated with said geographical area exceeds a predetermined distance.

9. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 8, wherein said geographical area is represented by a FIPS location code.

10. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 8, wherein said reference point is a point associated with another geographical area.

11. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 10, wherein said reference point is a center point of said other geographical area.

12. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 8, wherein said reference point corresponds to a location of a transmitter which transmits emergency alert signals.

13. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 12, wherein said predetermined distance corresponds to a transmission range of said transmitter.

14. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 8, wherein said predetermined point associated with said geographical area is a center point of said geographical area.

15. A television signal receiver (20) having an emergency alert function, comprising:

memory means (27) for storing data associated with said emergency alert function; and

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processing means (27) for receiving a user input representing a geographical area, and enabling a predetermined output responsive to said user input using said data in said memory means (27) if a distance between a reference

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